

# Inventory and Monitoring Program



*The San Francisco Bay Area Network Inventory and Monitoring Program tracks the status and trends of the region's natural resources in order to improve park management through greater reliance on scientific knowledge.*

## Project Highlights – May 2007

### John Muir Earth Day Event a Huge Success

For the second year in a row, Inventory and Monitoring had a booth at the annual John Muir Earth Day Event on April 21<sup>st</sup>. This year's attendance was record-setting at an estimated 1,600 visitors. Mike Reichmuth, Rob Carson, and Deborah Zierten were at the booth answering I & M questions, helping kids attach fins and tails to fish, and showing off the stickleback and crayfish that were caught in Franklin creek. Also on display were new I & M outreach posters including a network map, a Vital Signs poster, and volunteer opportunities. Secret talk around the event revealed that people were very impressed by our displays and have requested our presence at future events.



### Building a Bay Area Early Detection Network

While the San Francisco Area Network Parks are geographically closer than most, there is still a lot of land in between them. Recognizing that invasive species early detection is as important surrounding parks as in them, Andrea Williams (SFAN Natural Resource Specialist) contacted other land managers in the area and began building the Bay Area Early Detection Network (BAEDN) to increase the region's ability to detect and respond to new invasive plants. Her efforts have resulted in a \$38,000 National Fish and Wildlife "Pulling Together Initiative" grant with a pledged match from in-kind work by partners such as the California Department of Food and Agriculture, Audubon Canyon Ranch, California Invasive Plant Council, Invasive Spartina Project, Bay Area Open Space Council, Association of Bay Area Governments, Sonoma Ecology Center, and California Native Plant Society. The funds will help hire a coordinator for the effort, gather regional distribution data on priority species, and train partners in common methods. SFAN's draft protocol and SOP's, ID cards, and the creation of a common database system, will be some of the first items in the BAEDN "toolbox."

### Non-Nesting Year for our Spotted Owls

Northern Spotted Owl monitoring in Marin County is jointly conducted by the SFAN I&M Program and the Point Reyes Bird Observatory during the spring breeding season. Field efforts indicate that 2007 appears to be a non-nesting year for spotted owls in Marin County. Of the 48 spotted owl sites being monitored in Marin County, only one nest has been found as of yet. I&M staff are monitoring 25 of these 48 sites on NPS lands, and although spotted owl pairs have been located at most sites, no nests have been found. A non-nesting year for spotted owls hasn't been seen in 10 years of monitoring in Marin County, but has been documented to occur throughout their range in the Pacific Northwest. One theory to explain this year's nesting status is limited prey availability due to low winter rainfall.